Cybersecurity Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 20, 2015   10:00 a.m.
3 East, General Assembly Building
Meeting Summary

Members: Delegate Glenn Davis (chair), Delegate Kathy Byron, Delegate Dave LaRock, Delegate Tom Rust, Senator Steve Martin, Senator John Miller, Senator Jennifer Wexton

Delegate Davis, chair of the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order.

The advisory committee began its discussions by focusing on a proposal to develop a higher education research network, or portal, for cybersecurity. Such a portal would provide information on cybersecurity experts at each university in the Commonwealth. It was noted that this could be a tremendous tool to recruit businesses to the Commonwealth, as companies looking at locating in the Commonwealth often ask for access to research, but finding an access point can be difficult.

Some concerns were raised about the long-term viability of a portal. It would need to be constantly updated, because the portal would not be a good tool if it had outdated information. Additionally, in the realm of cybersecurity, the portal should be developed in a way that told the Virginia story holistically, and helped Virginia universities be competitive with central university systems. These concerns were not voiced to negate a portal project, but to share that the project will require ongoing thought and effort.

It was also suggested that in developing the portal, the target audience should be identified and the portal should be developed in response to that, instead of trying to create a tool that was all things to all entities. In developing a portal, the right alignment of public and private interests would need to be discovered and built into the framework.

Discussion next turned to the development of a statewide cyber conference or showcase to grow Virginia's presence on a national stage. Delegate Davis suggested a target date of October 2016. Developing such an event would require pinpointing

where Virginia is unique in the cyber field, and developing motivation for academia to attend.

Next, the advisory committee discussed the need to get the younger generation involved in cybersecurity. Chris Dovi with CodeVa, a nonprofit organization aimed at promoting the incorporation of computer coding into the classroom, spoke about the importance of engaging students at a young age, and the academic benefits that can grow out of this engagement.

The meeting was adjourned.